

ADVOCACY UPDATE

COVID-19 - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

Governments, both federal and provincial have announced several measures to assist businesses in Canada and Saskatchewan. Parliament is being recalled to pass the appropriate bills for the measures to be enacted on Tuesday.

Here are the latest highlights for you:

- We noted last week that the 10% wage subsidy for businesses from the federal government was a good first step, though many are still saying it is not enough. However, we are learning more about the subsidy and how it will be handled. It will not be provided in a cheque to you, but in a reduction of the payroll deductions (tax portion) you are required to submit to government each month. (EI and Pension contributions are still to be paid) Here is the: [FAQ Document Here](#)
- The provincial government has set up **Business Response Team** to assist businesses with questions. Their contact info is [HERE](#). The website says the phone lines will be open 8:00 am to 8:00 pm., and will be assisting business navigate the resources available.

Advocacy work at the national level for businesses continues on items like:

1. Conversations with the International Chamber of Commerce about global cargo pilot standards to ensure a smooth flow of air cargo.
2. Policy experts holding consultations with international counterparts on efforts to ensure medical equipment is able to move across borders to get where it is needed.
3. Continuing to advocate that the 10% wage subsidy is insufficient.
4. Teleconference for members regarding travel exemptions for temporary foreign workers in key industries. (Ag, etc.)
5. Teleconference with CEO's of energy sector businesses to discuss the impacts of COVID-19, falling oil prices, lack of critical infrastructure and regulatory uncertainty. Feedback and recommendations will be provided to government.
6. Working with the government to develop technical briefing teleconferences for small businesses on topics such as new border regulations, impacts to supply chains, and how to mitigate them, as well as how to access new government programs.
7. Thursday this week, Battlefords Chamber will join the Chamber network and participate in a national teleconference call with government representatives on specific programs for small businesses, including experts from Employment and Social Development Canada, and more.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is in close contact with the federal government on these and many other issues. We will do our best to keep you informed and up-to-date. Stay tuned, and follow the Chamber network.

And the SURVEY Says: [COVID-19 Business Impact Survey HERE](#)

RESOURCES YOU NEED

Canadian Chamber of Commerce:
Canada's COVID-19 Economic
Response Plan - Rapid Policy Update
Chamber's Website

The Chamber has compiled the up-to-date information on new government programs.
FAQ - Government Programs

Government of Canada:
Department of Finance website:
Finance Dept. Here

CRA Website [HERE](#)

Government of Saskatchewan:
Visit [Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus) here!

Newly announced "**Business Response Team**". Contact them by phone or email.
Phone # 1-844-800-8688
Website

For information on the State of
Emergency in Saskatchewan.
See Media Release here:

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:
Resources for Business
Website Here

Check too, they are listing webinars available to business, specifically, one hosted by BDC: How to Cope with the Impacts of COVID-19 on Your Business



Pandemic Preparedness Guide

Get your Pandemic Preparedness Plan for Business information here, at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce site. There is a Guide, Crisis Communications Plan, and Business Continuity & Recovery Plan.

See the Chamber's website



Monday Minute

Monday Minute provides up-to-the minute information on key Chamber of Commerce activities, advocacy and events. Recorded each Monday, it is distributed to Chamber members via email, and is available on the Chamber's website.

Visit our website!

Smart Moves
for your small business...

1. Join the Battlefords Chamber
2. Protect your most valuable assets

Request more information:
Aaron Cadrin
306.446.8080

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[VIEW CHAMBER'S PLAN FAQ HERE](#)



Chamber Network Working for You!



As a valued member of the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, you have access to the chamber network. The Canadian and Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce and of course our local resources are here to support you. Stay up-to-date on COVID-19 and other key business issues.



[Email us today!](#)

Battlefords Chamber of Commerce

**P.O. Box 1000, North Battleford, SK. S9A 3E6
W. 306-445-6226 F. 306-445-6633 or 306-446-0188**

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Battlefords Chamber of Commerce | P.O. Box 1000, North Battleford, SK S9A 3E6 Canada

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